

THE HONORABLE DEAN DEPIERO  
13<sup>TH</sup> MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PARMA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005  
STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME.

I'D LIKE TO START OFF BY THANKING YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING THIS "STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS".

BEFORE I GET STARTED THOUGH, I'D ASK FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE AT THE PASSING OF A GREAT WORLD LEADER -POPE JOHN PAUL II. THANK YOU.

I'D BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE HERE THIS MORNING.

LASTLY, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MY CABINET... INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HELPED TO MAKE MY FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE SUCH A PRODUCTIVE ONE. MORE THAN THAT, THEY HAVE COLLECTIVELY ENHANCED THIS CITY WITH THEIR DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, LOYALTY AND HARD WORK.

I'M GOING TO BREAK THIS MESSAGE INTO TWO PARTS. PART ONE IS TO OUTLINE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE COMING TO CITY HALL FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO. THE SECOND PART WILL SHARE A THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF MY VISION FOR PARMA AND WHAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO INSURE OUR VIABILITY AS OHIO'S SEVENTH LARGEST CITY.

THE LIFEblood OF ANY MUNICIPALITY INVOLVES A STRONG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT. NOT ONLY MUST WE RETAIN EXISTING BUSINESSES BUT AGGRESSIVELY SEEK OUT NEW COMPANIES TO LOCATE HERE. IT IS A PART OF OUR MASTER PLAN TO POSITION PARMA ECONOMICALLY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY.

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE STELLAR COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS WHO CALL PARMA "HOME." THERE IS THE GENERAL MOTORS METAL FABRICATION DIVISION. THERE IS PARMA COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL AND KAISER PERMANENTE. TO BE SURE, CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND BRYANT AND STRATTON GRACE US WITH THEIR PRESENCE. AND WHO CANNOT THINK OF PARMA WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL PARMATOWN MALL WITH ITS VAST ARRAY OF SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS THAT HELP TO MAKE OUR CITY SUCH A LIVEABLE ONE.

IT IS THE COMMITMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO INSURE THAT COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS ALREADY LOCATED HERE ARE GLAD TO BE HERE BECAUSE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO VIABLE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS. IN SHORT, THEIR FUTURE IS OURS AS WELL. THE PARTNERSHIPS THAT WE HAVE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND STRENGTHEN.

BUT IF PARMA IS TO GROW AND REMAIN FINANCIALLY SOLVENT, NEW BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE ATTRACTED.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, LAST YEAR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION APPROACHED THE CITY ABOUT LOCATING AN OUT-PATIENT FACILITY HERE. I AM PLEASED TO TELL YOU THAT A FEW WEEKS AGO I MET WITH VA OFFICIALS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF MAKING THIS PROPOSED FACILITY A REALITY. AS WE MOVE ALONG IN THIS PROCESS, YOU WILL BE UPDATED. THIS PROJECT WILL MEAN ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE TO AREA VETERANS WHILE BRINGING 150 GOOD PAYING HEALTH CARE JOBS AND VALUABLE TAX DOLLARS TO OUR CITY.

I'M ALSO PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER NEW BUSINESS IN THE PARMA INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY --

THE SHEETMETAL WORKERS' UNION. I CAN'T BE MORE ELATED THAN FOR A MAJOR UNION ORGANIZATION TO MAKE OUR CITY ITS BASE OF OPERATION. GROUNDBREAKING ON THIS FIFTY THOUSAND SQUARE FOOT, STATE OF THE ART FACILITY BEGINS THIS SPRING AND WHEN COMPLETED WILL BRING 40 NEW JOBS TO PARMA.

THESE ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES OF OUR SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING NEW JOBS TO OUR CITY.

THE PULSE OF A COMMUNITY IS A THRIVING SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR. SO TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES, WE ARE LAUNCHING THREE NEW PROGRAMS USING FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUNDS: THE STOREFRONT PROGRAM, THE COMMERCIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM AND THE COMMERCIAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

THESE INITIATIVES ARE ALL DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC VITALITY TO PARMA'S SMALL BUSINESSES COMMUNITY. AND RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO THANK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DOUG DOMBROSKI FOR HIS LEADERSHIP.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE STOREFRONT PROGRAM WILL ENABLE BUSINESSES OR BUILDING OWNERS TO RENOVATE AND BEAUTIFY EXISTING STRUCTURES. AMONG THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM ARE ROYAL DONUT AND THE TRADESMAN TAVERN WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE INTERSECTION OF STATE AND SNOW ROADS.

SIX OTHER PROJECTS IN THE NORTHERN END OF TOWN ARE IN THE WORKS AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WE ALSO HAVE LINED UP THREE MORE BUILDING OWNERS AND BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STOREFRONT INITIATIVE AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEM TO BEAUTIFY COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF OUR CITY, ONE AT A TIME.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS COMMERCIAL BEAUTIFICATION EFFORT, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING TO PUT UP NEW MUNICIPAL ENTRANCE SIGNS AT VARIOUS GATEWAYS TO OUR CITY.

WHEN ERECTED, THESE NEW, FUTURISTIC THEMED SIGNS WILL NOT ONLY SYMBOLIZE THE VIBRANCY OF A NEW PARMA TO VISITORS, BUT SERVE AS REINFORCEMENT TO

RESIDENTS THAT PARMA IS TRULY A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, RAISE CHILDREN AND DO BUSINESS.

WHY, YOU MAY ASK, IS THERE AN EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON BEAUTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND SIGNAGE.

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE: IT'S ABOUT BRANDING PARMA.

FOR DECADES, THIS TOWN HAS SUFFERED FROM AN IMAGE PROBLEM. SO IN ADDITION TO THE CITY'S VARIOUS BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS, WE CONTINUE TO MOLD A NEW IMAGE FOR THE CITY ITSELF THANKS TO MY SAMURAI, COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR POWELL CAESAR.

NEARLY EVERY WEEK, POSITIVE NEWS STORIES ARE BEING TOLD ABOUT PARMA IN NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS CASTS. THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF PROACTIVE AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO POSITION PARMA IN THE MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT.

THAT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE BRINGING EMAIL CAPABILITIES TO CITY HALL AND THE LAUNCH OF A MUNICIPAL WEBSITE TO POSITION US FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS.

IN ADDITION, WE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR LINKS WITH PARMA'S FAITH BASED COMMUNITY, MINISTERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND'S BLACK CHURCHES, THE PARMA CITY SCHOOLS, THE PARMA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PARMA COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL AND VARIOUS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE RED CROSS, HARVEST FOR HUNGER AND THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. ALSO WE ARE PROUD OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARMA'S VERY OWN NON-PROFITS TO INCLUDE "PROUD OF PARMA", THE PARMA ANIMAL SHELTER AND THE PARMA AREA REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, JUST TO NAME A FEW.

ALSO...IT IS NO SECRET THAT IN YEARS PAST, PARMA WAS SEEN AS A RACIALLY INTOLERANT TOWN. TODAY, THANKS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY RELATIONS, WE ENJOY A SOLID, WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CLEVELAND BRANCH NAACP. WHERE ONCE PARMA WAS A TARGET BY THAT ORGANIZATION, WE NOW WORK HAND IN HAND IN MATTERS OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND FAIR HOUSING.

WHY ARE ALL OF THESE INITIATIVES, IN TOTAL, SO IMPORTANT?

BECAUSE IF PARMA IS TO ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS, WE MUST BE VIEWED FAVORABLY OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS. IN THIS NEW DAY AND AGE, PARMA NO LONGER CAN BE AN ISLAND UNTO ITSELF.

BUT A MAYORAL ADMINISTRATION'S HIGHEST PRIORITY IS TO PROVIDE MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO RESIDENTS.

TO BE SURE, THE POLICE OVERTIME AND SICK LEAVE PROBE THAT MY ADMINISTRATION INHERITED MAKES SPORADIC HEADLINES. REST ASSURED, THOUGH, THAT THIS MATTER IS NEARING CLOSURE.

AS SOON AS MY OFFICE HAS RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR SURROUNDING THIS MATTER, ADMINISTRATION ACTION WILL BE TAKEN. THE POLICE OT ISSUE ASIDE, THE CITY OF PARMA'S IMAGE IS BEING ENHANCED BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

WHILE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS COME UNDER SCRUTINY – AND WE SEEK CLOSURE TO THIS MATTER – NONETHELESS PARMA HAS BEEN RANKED AS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SAFEST CITY IN AMERICA FOR A CITY OUR SIZE, ACCORDING TO FBI STATISTICS.

I AM PROUD OF THE GOOD WORK OF CHIEF DAN HOFFMAN AND OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT. UNDER CHIEF HOFFMAN'S WATCH AND THE STRONG LEADERSHIP OF SAFETY DIRECTOR GREG BAEPLER OVERTIME IS DOWN, SICK TIME IS DOWN AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REVAMPED TO MAKE THE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO TAXPAYERS AND THIS ADMINISTRATION.

AND AS WE CONTINUE WITH POLICE REFORMS AND ENHANCED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES, CITIZENS CAN FEEL SAFE ON THEIR STREETS AND IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

I WANT TO THANK OUR MEN IN BLUE WHO RISK THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS. OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ONE OF THE FINEST IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY, IF NOT THE STATE OR NATION.

PLANNING FOR TWO NEW FIRE STATIONS IS UNDERWAY AND WE PLAN TO BREAK GROUND ON A NEW SITE ADJACENT TO ST. FRANCIS DESALES BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHIEF FRENCH AND ASSISTANT CHIEF RYAN, HAVE FORMED A CITIZEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM – OR CERT—TO DEAL WITH ANY PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS SITUATION SUCH AS A NATURAL DISASTER. IN THE WAKE OF 9/11, THIS IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IN OUR CITY.

THROUGH THE DEDICATION OF OVER ONE HUNDRED VOLUNTEER RESIDENTS, OUR CITIZEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM IS QUICKLY BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST WELL-TRAINED AND BEST ORGANIZED IN THE AREA.

AT THIS TIME, LET ME PUBLICLY THANK ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS, ALONG WITH THE COUNTLESS VOLUNTEERS ON THE CERT TEAM, FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR CITY.

IN THE AREA OF CITY SERVICES, IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES WE MUST DO MORE WITH LESS. THROUGH GOOD MANAGEMENT AND BY STRETCHING YOUR TAX DOLLARS, WE ARE STREAMLINING OUR OPERATIONS.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SERVICE DIRECTOR BRIAN HIGGINS, PARMA'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IS DOING A YEOMAN JOB IN REPAIRING STREETS, PROVIDING SEWER MAINTENANCE AND KEEPING THE CITY NEAT AND CLEAN. TO BE SURE, THEY DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB IN CLEARING THE ROADS OF SNOW AND ICE DURING THIS RECORD BREAKING AND TREACHEROUS PAST WINTER. AND AFTER THAT BRUTAL WINTER, OUR STREETS HAVE TAKEN A BEATING.

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT WE HAVE A LOT OF REPAIRS TO DO, BUT OUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE WORKING THROUGHOUT THE SPRING AND SUMMER TO HANDLE THIS MAJOR UNDERTAKING.

BECAUSE OF THE GREAT LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR MICKEY VITTARDI, THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTINUES TO OFFER A VAST ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. OUR MYRIAD OF PARKS OFFER RESIDENTS GREENSPACE AND TRANQUILITY, TO INCLUDE A NEW FITNESS TRAIL AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK.

IN ADDITION, MAJOR RENOVATIONS ARE IN THE WORKS FOR THIS SPRING ON THREE CITY PARKS: RIDGEWOOD LAKE, GERALD PARK AND THE NEW JOHN PETRUSKA PARK TO BE DEDICATED THIS SUMMER.

AND... WE PLAN A MAJOR UPGRADE TO ONE OF OUR SWIMMING POOLS FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES.

ALSO SPEAKING OF PARKS.. THE CITY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WEST CREEK PRESERVE HAS LEAD TO THE CLEVELAND METROPARKS BRINGING THE WEST CREEK PRESERVE INTO THE EMERALD NECKLACE.

THIS EXCITING PROJECT IS THE RESULT OF MANY HOURS OF HARD WORK BY NOT ONLY OUR FRIENDS AT WEST CREEK BUT THE PROFESSIONALS AT METROPARKS.

SHIFTING GEARS, PARMA'S PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY IS NOW THE EPITOME OF ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND REGULARLY IS NOW BEING GIVEN HIGH MARKS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

CHEVYBROOK IS UNDERGOING MAJOR RENOVATIONS TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE AND DECENT HOUSING FOR THOSE WITH LOW INCOMES THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE AUTHORITY. THIS DEPARTMENT HAS EMERGED FROM SCANDAL AND IS OPERATING SUPERBLY. THANK YOU PUBLIC HOUSING DIRECTOR LEV KULCHYTSKY.

UNDER THE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP OF DIRECTOR ELAINE SIEGFRIED, THE DEPARTMENT OF PURCHASING AND PERSONNEL RUNS LIKE A WELL OILED MACHINE WHILE CONTINUING TO UPGRADE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON THE EMPLOYEE FRONT AND ON THE PROCUREMENT FRONT.

THANKS TO THE STRONG LEADERSHIP OF PAUL DIECHMANN, A DEPARTMENT THAT HAS QUIETLY AND EFFECTIVELY WORKED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ALIKE IS BUILDING AND ENGINEERING.

THIS UNIT OF THE CABINET HAS MADE VAST INROADS IN CODE ENFORCEMENT WHILE OVERSEEING MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY LIMITS. THIS YEAR THERE WILL BE SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO CODE ENFORCEMENT IN THE NORTHERN END OF THE CITY.

AND WHO CAN FORGET OUR SENIOR CENTER --- A CROWN JEWEL FOR THIS CITY HEADED BY THE CAPABLE & ENERGETIC JO ANN MASON.

DAY IN AND DAY OUT, THE SENIOR CENTER PROVIDES NOT ONLY A PLACE FOR OUR SENIORS TO CONGREGATE AND PARTAKE OF NUTRITIOUS MEALS, BUT ALSO OFFERS A MULTITUDE OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO INCLUDE TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND PRESCRIPTION PICK UPS.

IN A NUTSHELL, WHEN I WAS CAMPAIGNING FOR MAYOR I PROMISED YOU A NEW DAY IN PARMA. FIFTEEN MONTHS SINCE TAKING OFFICE I CAN TELL YOU THAT THAT NEW DAY HAS ARRIVED AND THERE ARE EVEN BETTER DAYS AHEAD.

BUT WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?

PARMA STANDS AT THE CROSSROAD. LIKE MOST CITIES WE ARE DOING MORE WITH LESS.

BUT THERE COMES A TIME WHEN DOING MORE WITH LESS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF A MUNICIPALITY.

WE HAVE AN AGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND IN THE FUTURE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS MUST BE SPENT ON STREETS AND SEWERS. THAT'S A GIVEN.

POLICE AND FIRE BUDGETS ALREADY HAVE BEEN TRIMMED WHICH MEANS NO INCREASES FOR MANPOWER OR TRAINING. STREET REPAIRS, ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT, WILL NOT BE WHAT IT SHOULD BECAUSE OF THESE CONSTRAINTS.

AS AN ASIDE, LATE LAST YEAR WE HAD TO ABOLISH THE DARE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF BUDGET CONSTRAINTS. THOSE OF YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS PROACTIVE PROGRAM TO KEEP OUR KIDS OFF DRUGS WERE CONCERNED.

WE HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE THAT WE CAN BRING IT BACK.

FORTUNATELY, THE U.S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE HERE IN NORTHEAST OHIO STEPPED INTO THE BREACH. THANKS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF MARSHAL PETER ELLIOTT, HIS OFFICE WILL LINK WITH THE PARMA CITY SCHOOLS IN A PROGRAM CALLED "GREAT" OR THE GANG RESISTANCE AND EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM.

WHILE PARMA DOES NOT HAVE A GANG PROBLEM TO SPEAK OF, THIS INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO CURTAIL GANG ACTIVITY BEFORE IT OCCURS. AND FOR THAT, MARSHAL ELLIOTT, WE THANK YOU. WE ALSO THANK YOU AND THE U.S. MARSHAL SERVICE FOR WHAT YOU DO TO KEEP NORTHEAST OHIO FREE OF VIOLENT FELONS.

AND SPEAKING OF THE SCHOOLS, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T COMMEND DR. SARAH ZATIK, OUR SUPERINTENDENT, FOR THE MAGNIFICENT JOB SHE'S DOING UNDER SEVERE BUDGET CONSTRAINTS AND FUNDING NEEDS. I ALSO APPRECIATE THE GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT KEVIN KELLY AND FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS.

AS MAYOR, I RECOGNIZE THAT GOOD SCHOOLS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF A STRONG COMMUNITY.

I PLEDGE MY FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE MAY SCHOOL LEVY AND WILL DO ALL THAT I CAN TO MAKE PASSAGE A REALITY.

WHILE I'M AT IT... I WOULD URGE YOU TO VOTE "YES" FOR THE UPCOMING MAY SCHOOL LEVY.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, PARMA IS AT THE CROSS ROAD. WE ARE ALREADY STRETCHED THIN FINANCIALLY WITH THIS YEAR'S BUDGET.

AS YOU KNOW, WE DECIDED NOT TO GO ON THE BALLOT FOR THE POLICE LEVY IN MAY BECAUSE WE COULDN'T BRING CLOSURE TO THE POLICE INVESTIGATION. ONCE THAT MATTER IS SETTLED, WE WILL BE GOING TO RESIDENTS SEEKING THEIR SUPPORT FOR A POLICE REPLACEMENT LEVY IN NOVEMBER.

ONE THING IS FOR SURE WITHOUT INCREASED REVENUES, IF THE LEVY DOESN'T PASS IN NOVEMBER, YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT TOUGH DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN 2006. FURTHERMORE, UNFUNDED MANDATES AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL THREATEN OUR ALREADY LEAN BUDGETS FOR 2006 AND BEYOND.

GOVERNOR TAFT AND STATE LEGISLATORS... KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING!!

WITH THAT SAID, PARMA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A SHINING CITY ON THE HILL, TO QUOTE THE LATE PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN.

THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SEEKS A STATE OF THE ART OUTPATIENT FACILITY HERE.

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE WANTS TO OPEN A NURSING WE HAVE THE RESOURCES AND WE HAVE THE LEADERSHIP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

MY VISION IS TO BRAND PARMA AS A MECCA FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

WE HAVE PARMA COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL, WHICH HAS OPENED AN INNOVATIVE NURSING PROGRAM. PLUS, IN RECENT YEARS, THE HOSPITAL HAS CREATED A HEART CENTER, CANCER CENTER AND SURGICAL CENTER.

KAISER PERMANENTE STANDS AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE.

IN SHORT, PARMA IS BECOMING AN EPICENTER FOR HEALTH CARE IN NORTHEAST OHIO.

THIS MEANS NEW JOBS; WELL PAYING JOBS THAT MEAN ADDITIONAL REVENUES FOR THE CITY.

IN ADDITION TO PARMA'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING MARKET, I ENVISION A RESURGENCE IN PARMA'S NEIGHBORHOODS, SUCH AS IN WARD 2 WHICH WILL SOON SEE NEW HOUSING UNITS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN TWO DECADES.

AN EXCITING NEW MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT AT RIDGE AND PEARL ROAD NAMED RIDGE POINTE WILL FEATURE CONDOS WITH A VIEW OF THE CLEVELAND SKYLINE IS PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER.

ALSO, CLUSTER HOUSING IS IN STRONG DEMAND IN PARMA TO KEEP OUR SENIORS AND EMPTY NESTERS IN OUR FAIR CITY.

AN EXCITING NEW THIRTY CLUSTER HOME DEVELOPMENT IS NEARING APPROVAL FOR THE SPRAGUE AND STATE ROAD AREA. THIS WILL BE THE THIRD SUCH DEVELOPMENT IN OUR CITY

BUT TO MAKE THAT RESURGENCE FLOURISH, WE HAVE TO MAKE THE NEW PARMA "HAPPEN."

WE CAN START BY EMBRACING THE TENETS OF FAIR HOUSING LAWS.

WE CAN "TALK PARMA UP" WHEN OUR TRAVELS TAKE US OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS.

MOST OF ALL, WE CAN BE PROUD OF PARMA AND LET THAT PRIDE REFLECT.

I ENVISION A PARMA THAT CAN ATTRACT NEW BUSINESSES TO COMPLIMENT THE ONES WE ALREADY HAVE.

I ENVISION A PARMA THAT SERVES AS AN EXAMPLE OF A GREAT AMERICAN CITY.

AND WITH YOUR HELP AND CONTINUED SUPPORT, THIS CAN HAPPEN.

AS I WRAP UP, I MUST PAY TRIBUTE TO PARMA CITY COUNCIL. COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHUCK GERMANA AND MAJORITY LEADER ANTHONY ZIELINSKI, ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, HAVE WORKED TIRELESS ON BEHALF OF THIS CITY. AS IMPORTANT, THERE IS A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND GOODWILL.

ALTHOUGH WE DON'T ALWAYS AGREE, THE DEBATE HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND THOUGHTFUL. FOR THIS AND MORE, THE CITIZENS OF PARMA AND I SAY "THANK YOU."

WHEN I RAN FOR OFFICE, I PROMISED STRONG LEADERSHIP FOR PARMA. I PROMISED LEADERSHIP THAT WOULD BE DECISIVE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ENTIRE CITY.

I PROMISED THAT I WOULD SURROUND MYSELF WITH THE BEST PEOPLE TO HELP ME DO MY JOB. I PROMISED THAT I WOULD NOT HIDE FROM TOUGH ISSUES OR DECISIONS AND THAT I WOULD MEET THEM HEAD ON.

I PROMISED THAT I WOULD CHANGE THE TONE AT CITY HALL AND HEIGHTEN THE LEVEL OF DEBATE WITH CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF PARMA.

WHEN I WAS ELECTED, I DID NOT PROMISE PERFECTION BUT DID PROMISE THAT WHEN MISTAKES WERE MADE, THEY WOULD BE MISTAKES MADE WITH THE RIGHT INTENT AND NOT THAT OF A BAD HEART.

FINALLY, I PLEDGED THAT EVERY DAY I WOULD FOCUS ON MY EFFORTS ON IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF YOUR GREAT CITY AND DO WHAT I COULD TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.



I HAVE DELIVERED ON EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THESE PROMISES AND I PLEDGE THAT  
THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF MY TERM THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE GOOD ON  
THESE PROMISES.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. AND GOD BLESS THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT CITY OF  
PARMA.